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REMARKS

Applicants thank Examiner Vu for his time and courtesy during the November 10, 2005 telephone call with the Applicants' representative, Michael Rodriguez.

Claims 1, 3-17, 19-21, and 23-38 were presented for examination. The Office Action dated July 14, 2005 rejects claims 15-17 and 19, and indicates claims 1, 3-14, 20-21, and 23-38 are allowable. Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of these claims. This paper amends claim 15. Claims 1, 3-17, 19-21, and 23-38 remain pending in the application.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Office Action rejects claims 15-17 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Browning (U.S. Patent No. 5,525,868). Applicants have amended independent claim 15 to distinguish the Applicants' invention more clearly from the cited reference.

Applicants' invention, as now set forth in independent claim 15, includes, in pertinent part, a charge-emission device with an emitter, and controllable means for supplying electrical current to the emitter. The invention also includes means, electrically connected to an electrical path between the supplying means and the emitter, for shunting at least a portion of the supplied electrical current to ground upon a detection of a particular charge emission condition.

Browning shows a control mechanism for changing the brightness of a flat-panel display. The flat-panel display includes emitter tips and pixelators that supply drive current to the emitter tips. The amount of drive current supplied to the emitter tips determines the brightness of the display. One termination of a pixelator is coupled to an emitter tip and a second termination

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is coupled to resistance. The value of this resistance determines the amount of drive current and, thus, the brightness of display. Browning's control mechanism reduces this resistance, thus increasing the amount of drive current that reaches the emitter tips and, consequently, the brightness of display.

Browning's control mechanism for reducing resistance employs a field effect transistor as a shunt for the drive current. In contrast to the Applicants' invention, however, Browning's shunt is not electrically connected in the electrical path between the first termination of the pixelator supplying the drive current and the emitter tip. Rather, Browning's shunt is electrically connected to the second termination of the pixelator (e.g., see FIG. 3) or taps the resistance that controls the amount of drive current (e.g., see FIG. 2C), or both (see FIG. 2A).

Further unlike the Applicants' invention, Browning's field effect transistor does not shunt drive current to ground upon the detection of a particular charge emission condition. Browning does not teach or suggest monitoring the charge emission of the emitter tips and, consequently, does not base the activation of its shunt upon detecting a particular condition of this charge emission. Hence, Applicants respectfully submit that Browning does not show or suggest every element and limitation of the Applicants' invention, as now set forth in independent claim 15, and therefore the rejection is overcome.

Dependent claims 16-17 and 19 depend directly from patentable independent claim 15, incorporate all of its respective limitations, and, therefore, are also patentably distinguishable over Browning for at least this

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reason. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection against these claims is also overcome.

CONCLUSION

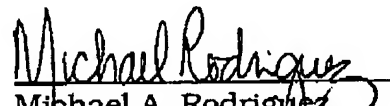
In view of the amendments and arguments made herein, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance and requests early favorable action by the Examiner.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with the Applicants' representative would expedite allowance of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the undersigned at (508) 303-2003.

Respectfully submitted,

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